GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:235
ANSWERED ON:06.07.2004
STREET HAWKERS AND VENDORS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of street hawkers and vendors living below the poverty line, State-wise;

(b) the authority regulating street hawkers and vendors in the country;

(c) whether there is a National Policy for street hawkers and vendors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce laws regulating hawkering activity in order to safeguard the interests of hawkers and vendors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION(KUMARI SELJA)

(a): No such data is maintained by the Government.

(b): The States/Union Territories regulate Street Hawkers and Vendors through appropriate local authorities.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. Salient features of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors are at Annexure.

(e)&(f): Does not arise.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXUXRE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA USQ.NO. 235 FOR 06.07.2004.
SALIENT FEATURES OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON URBAN STREET VENDORS.

This Policy aims to ensure that Urban Street Vendors, an important segment of the urban population, find recognition for their contribution to society. The Policy is conceived as a major initiative for urban poverty alleviation by support to dignified livelihood. The basic objectives of the Policy are:

- To give vendors legal status by amending, enacting, repealing and implementing appropriate laws and providing legitimate hawking zones in urban development/zoning plans.

- To provide facilities for appropriate use of identified space including the creation of hawking zones in the urban development/zoning plans.

- To eschew imposing numerical limits on access to public spaces by discretionary licenses and instead moving to nominal fee based regulation of access, where market forces like price, quality and demand will determine the number of vendors that can be sustained. Such a demand cannot be unlimited.

- To make Street vendors a special component of the urban development/zoning plans by treating them as an integral and legitimate part of the urban distribution system.

- To promote self-compliance amongst Street vendors.

- To promote organizations of Street vendors e.g. Unions/Co-operatives/Associations and other forms of organization to facilitate their empowerment.

- To set up participatory mechanisms with representation from urban vendors` organizations, (Unions/Co-operatives/Associations),Voluntary organizations, local authorities, the police, Residents Welfare Association (RWA) and others for

orderly conduct of urban vending activities.

- To take measures for promoting a better future for child vendors by making appropriate interventions for their rehabilitation and schooling.

- To facilitate/promote social security (pension,insurance etc.) and access to credit for Street vendors through promotion of SHGs/Co-operatives/Federations/Micro-Finance Institutions

(MFIs) etc.

2. The Policy recommends that the Centre and concerned States should amend the Police Act and Police Rules/Regulations as are applicable.

3. The State Governments should also remove the restrictive provisions in the Municipal Acts and make street vendors inclusive in the city plan/cityscape. Similar action if necessary, would have to be taken by the Development Authority for Development Areas.

4. All State Governments should ensure that institutional arrangements, legislative frameworks and other necessary actions achieve conformity with the national Policy for Street Vendors.